



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

January 2016

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



2016 is shaping up to be a year of smaller construction projects as we begin planning for the biggest public works project in city history. A large amount of City revenue will be going to fund the required design, engineering, and property acquisition of significant utility projects including our Federally-mandated long term control plan sewer separation, and also for water needs of our growing city. As such, you will likely see fewer road closures!

This year, we will begin the design and implementation of a major component of our Federally-mandated, long term control plan implementation that was originally estimated at 160 million dollars in total (over 20 years). But how do

we finance such a large project without overly burdening our ratepayers? For perspective, the wastewater division currently receives about 12.5 million dollars a year from you, the ratepayers, to operate the system. In comparison, the impact of this 160 million dollar federal mandate on our wastewater utility is the equivalent of placing an additional \$640,000 mortgage on a family living on \$50,000 a year. That is not realistic so we must look for creative alternatives to spread the obligation. Unfortunately, this is not possible without raising rates over time. But to reduce the rate impacts over time, we are working to fund a significant portion of this obligation with our tax increment finance (TIF) district which normally funds our road and infrastructure projects. TIF already funds 3.3 million dollars annually for a portion of current wastewater infrastructure debt which helps keep rates lower for our citizens and businesses. Of course the consequence to this is that there will be fewer other infrastructure, road, and quality of life improvements.

While TIF will pick up a substantial part of the obligation for our wastewater long term control plan, these funds have been responsible for much of the city infrastructure improvements that have been made over the past few years. The key to success will be a delicate balance of using TIF to finance our wastewater obligation to keep rates as low as possible while also continuing infrastructure and quality of life projects to improve other parts of the City.

I often use this space to announce major projects but here are a few interesting smaller projects that will be implemented in 2016 worth noting:

- Wayfinding signs – In the State of the City this year, I mentioned the City's initiative to provide branding and wayfinding signs. We continue to expand and develop as a destination and regional center for commerce. As a result, the need to communicate how to get around is

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Choosing a primary care provider

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

A primary care provider (PCP) is a health care practitioner who sees people that have common medical problems. This person is usually a doctor (sometimes called a family doctor), and different types include family practitioners, pediatricians, internists and obstetricians/gynecologists. Or he or she may be a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner. Having a primary care provider can give you a trusting, ongoing relationship with one medical professional over time.

A PCP is your main health care provider in non-emergency situations. Your PCP's role is to:

- Provide preventive care and teach healthy lifestyle choices.
- Identify and treat common medical conditions.
- Assess the urgency of your medical problems and coordinate your health care team by directing you to the best place for that care.
- Make referrals to medical specialists when necessary.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Jan 1	New Year's Day Holiday (City Offices Closed)
Jan 4	ND Hockey "Practice on the Pond" - 5pm (Merrifield Ice Rink)
Feb 10	We Heart Paws Dog Event—6pm (Castle Manor)
Feb 12	Grandparent & Me Valentine's Party 1pm (Castle Manor)
Feb 26	Daddy Daughter Dance - 7-9pm
March 20	Easter Egg Hunt 1-3PM (George Wilson Park)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Beginning January 23rd,
IRS-certified VITA tax
preparers will prepare and e-
file your taxes for FREE!

**CALL 2-1-1 to schedule
your appointment** or
schedule online at

www.uwsjc.org/vita.html

ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka
maintains an online presence
and can be found on the web
at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at
[http://facebook.com/
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Remember, the current issue
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A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

increasingly important. The specifications for this project are complete. We will bid the project this winter for installation when the weather breaks in the spring of 2016

- Riverwalk surveillance cameras and call box system - After a few years of working through design issues, changing the system from a wireless to a wired system in partnership with the St. Joseph Valley Metronet, as well as planning for the change from our Mishawaka dispatch center to the consolidated St. Joseph County Dispatch Center, we finally have the project out to bid. The plan is that the entire system will be operational for the summer of 2016.
- Cemetery fencing - The City has three cemeteries located on both the north and south sides of Jefferson Boulevard between Liberty Drive and Main Street. We are partnering with Fairview Cemetery on the north side of Jefferson to dedicate approximately four feet of right-of-way. Although four feet doesn't seem like a lot, this is the only area left between the cemetery plots and the existing fence. By moving it back, our intent is to widen the walk and install decorative fencing. This will provide for a safer walk for children walking through the corridor to go to school. It will also significantly improve the appearance of the corridor.
- Twin Branch Park - In 2015 we were able to create a much-needed paved parking area in the park across from Twin Branch School. In 2016 we will undertake phase two, which will be to create a parking lot on the east side of the park close to the play equipment. On completion, this will keep cars out of the center of the park and create a safer and cleaner recreation area.
- Mishawaka Food Pantry Garden - The City is collaborating with Penn Township to construct a small garden adjacent to the Mishawaka Food Pantry complete with raised beds, irrigation, walkways and a sculpture. The garden, with raised boxes, will be used to grow fresh vegetables for the food pantry on a site that used to be an old brake shop/gas station.

Just a reminder, there is lots to do in Mishawaka in the winter. Take the kids or grandkids to Wilson Park for tubing or go to Merrifield Park for skating. After snow is removed from the roads, we also plow and sweep the Riverwalk, so come downtown and enjoy a weekend stroll. Most of all, have a happy and safe winter. As always, watch out for the kids!

Mayor Paul

Choosing a primary care provider

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Your PCP is often involved in your care for a long time, so it is important to select someone with whom you will work well. When choosing a PCP, consider the following:

- Is the office staff friendly and helpful? Is the office good about returning calls?
- Are the office hours convenient to your schedule?
- How easy is it to reach the provider? Does the provider use email?
- Do you prefer a provider whose communication style is friendly and warm, or more formal?
- Do you prefer a provider focused on disease treatment, or wellness and prevention?
- Does the provider have a conservative or aggressive approach to treatment?
- Does the provider refer to other specialists frequently or infrequently?
- What do colleagues and patients say about the provider?
- Does the provider encourage you to be involved in your care? Does the provider view your patient-doctor relationship as a true partnership?

In addition to the above, make sure to contact your health plan for a list of doctors who accept your type of insurance and know what your insurance covers before considering your options.

Winterfest Coloring Contest Winners

The annual coloring contest for the Mishawaka Winterfest, sponsored by the Mishawaka Business Association, was judged by Mayor Wood and his family on December 21, 2015. A winner was selected in each grade level, K-6, receiving a \$50.00 Gift Certificate to Build-A-Bear at University Park Mall.



Kindergarten	Jersee Ruiz-Milby	Emmons School			
1st Grade	Emily Botham	Liberty School	4th Grade	Natalia McCool	Mishawaka Catholic
2nd Grade	Aris Koehler	Beiger School	5th Grade	Ava Raker	Hums School
3rd Grade	Olivia Orians	Mishawaka Catholic	6th Grade	Katie Hartley	Twin Branch School

Send your questions, comments, or concerns to communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov